

Minutes, Cable Television Advisory Committee, July 12, 2007

I. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Jackie Hontz at 7:10 p.m. in the Administrator's Conference Room in the Administration Center, 1300 Courthouse Road.

II. Roll Call.

The following members were present: Jackie Hontz, Tom Gregory, Terry Lottes, Thomas Kimbrell, Danielle Davis and John Johnson. Also present were Marie Schuler with Comcast Communications, and Cathy Riddle and Michele Lansford representing the County. Cox Communications did not have a representative present.

III. Presentations by the Public.

There were no members of the public present.

IV. Agenda Additions.

There were no additions to the agenda.

V. Members' Concerns.

Ms. Hontz requested an update from Ms. Schuler about the issue that Terry and Paula Menteer (107 Ivywood Drive), James Sthreshley (106 Scarsdale Drive), and David Stumpf (109 Ivywood Drive), residents in the Heritage Oaks Subdivision, previously brought before the committee. They contend that Comcast subcontractors installed underground cable outside the proper utility easement, and that there is no record of an easement where the work was completed.

Ms. Schuler said the issue has been resolved. The company is obtaining signed agreements from certain residents to leave the cable where it is, and has moved the cable to the street in front of homes at those properties where the owners requested it.

Danielle Davis reported that she arrived home one day in May and discovered Comcast contractors digging on her property, with no prior notice and without her permission. The crew informed her that they "had the right" to perform the work. She called a Comcast representative to report the incident; a supervisor called her the next day and apologized, asked her if she wanted the cable removed, and informed her that the crew was completing work to run fiber to her entire neighborhood.

Ms. Davis told the supervisor that she did not want the cable moved, but that the company should inform property owners before work begins.

Ms. Hontz asked Ms. Schuler if Comcast is required to notify owners of private property before the company undertakes projects. Ms. Schuler said that Adelphia did not require their contractors

to do so, but that Comcast is in the process of changing the policy to require that contractors provide prior notification of work.

Ms. Hontz asked if a general notice about projects could be added to customers' bills; Ms. Schuler replied that her suggestion was a good idea.

Ms. Davis asked if Comcast had solved the Internet problem reported by Mr. Dan Conroy. Ms. Schuler and Ms. Lansford said they believed his service was fixed, but that they would contact him make sure.

Mr. Gregory said he went to the local Comcast office on July 2nd to pick up a high-definition box. He said he was given one, even though the company, per FCC order, was no longer supposed to provide that model. He said it automatically stopped working a few days after he installed it. He also said the company contacted him about the box using a phone number that was more than 12 years old and that should have been removed from his files; he had previously asked that all phone numbers be removed so that Adelphia salespeople would stop calling him.

Ms. Schuler explained that new boxes have certain security measures built in. Beginning in July 2007, boxes rented from Comcast have an embedded "smart" card. Customers now have the option to purchase equipment from stores, and obtain the cards from Comcast to insert into boxes to initiate service. She also said that the company needs current phone numbers for its customers, but that she would be sure a privacy protection was associated with his number to prevent telemarketing calls.

A discussion took place about the FCC ruling requiring all television signals to be broadcast in digital format beginning on February 17, 2009. Ms. Schler said Comcast plans to provide digital simulcasts, and that certain people will be eligible for vouchers to help them purchase boxes.

VI. New Business.

Ms. Schuler informed the committee that Comcast will terminate service to a customer who resides in Stafford by the end of July 2007. The customer will be notified by mail. Ms. Hontz thanked her for the information.

Closed Meeting: At 7:47 p.m., Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Gregory, to go into a Closed Meeting on the following item:

Legal: To discuss negotiation of the Cavalier Telephone franchise.
Section 2.2-3711 A7
Code of Virginia

The voting tally was:

Yea: (6) Hontz, Gregory, Lottes, Davis, Kimbrell, Johnson

Call to Order. At 8:50 p.m., the Chair called the meeting back to order.

Closed Meeting Certification. Mr. Gregory moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt proposed Resolution CM07-01.

The voting tally was:

Yea: (6) Hontz, Gregory, Lottes, Davis, Kimbrell, Johnson

Resolution CM07-01 reads as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THE ACTIONS OF THE STAFFORD
COUNTY CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN A
CLOSED MEETING ON JULY 12, 2007**

WHEREAS, the committee has, on this the 12th day of July, 2007, adjourned into a closed meeting in accordance with a formal vote of the committee and in accordance with provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as it became effective July 1, 1989, provides for certification that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford County Cable Television Advisory Committee does hereby certify, on this the 12th day of July, 2007, that to the best of each member's knowledge: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom Act were discussed in the Closed Meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the said Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered by the committee. No member dissents from the aforesaid certification.

VII. Approval of Minutes.

Ms. Davis moved that the minutes of the May 2007 meeting be approved with one correction; Mr. Gregory seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment.

At 8:55 p.m., Mr. Gregory moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Lottes seconded; the motion passed unanimously.